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### ***Davis Awards \$362,713 Grant to City of Madison for Historic Restoration Project***

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today awarded a \$362,713 Community Focus Fund grant to the city of Madison for the rehabilitation of the former historic AME church.

The former African Methodist Episcopal Church, built circa 1849, is one of the oldest church buildings of its kind in the United States. The Community Focus Fund (CFF) grant will allow the city of Madison to stabilize and restore an endangered property associated with the Underground Railroad.

"We're pleased to help connect Madison's history with its future," said Davis, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "The City is safely salvaging a distinctive and historical building, and we are happy to support their efforts."

As part of the restoration, the City will remove the blight designation of the church by improving site drainage. When fully restored, the 1,200-square-foot building will have the potential to serve as a memorial to Madison's role in the Underground Railroad. It can serve as a repository for artifacts that document and celebrate the area's African-American heritage.

The Community Focus Fund is a federally funded grant program administered by the Indiana Department of Commerce. The funding is available to small cities, towns and counties for construction projects designed to benefit low- to moderate-income individuals or to eliminate blight in communities. Grants are awarded through competitive funding rounds to assist small communities in long-term development projects.

Projects eligible for CFF grants include local infrastructure improvements, childcare facilities, senior and community centers, downtown revitalization and fire stations and fire trucks. Up to \$500,000 is available per applicant. A match of at least 10 percent is required from the grant recipient.

In this, the second round of funding for 2004, 37 Hoosier communities shared in nearly \$15 million in funding.

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For more information about the CFF grant program, contact the Office of Community Assistance in the Community Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce at 800.824.2476 or access its Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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